Alpes 966
Mexico 10,DF
May 8, 1972

Dear Harold,

Wondering what happened to you and had a letter ready to mail when yours arrived. You really keep things straight for me which I appreciate no end. As I once explained to you the pressures of motherhood and money sometimes keep one's mind from functioning correctly. Besides, I've started Future Shock and the awful word futility creeps in. However, whatever is to be, a steady course until then is still the best.

Your remarks about the author of Kaplan very lucid. And it's also odd that I never heard from the attorney I recommended you to. I saw a friend of mine the other day who knows him for years - personal basis - and said really reliable and can't understand why he hasn't answered you - said might be hasn't answered me because the book isn't out yet and there's nothing to do. After speaking with you when you said you thought I had ~~something~~, I spoke with Bob. Incidentally, I found a letter in my files to the effect that the day something is printed about Kaplan, not only would I be rewarded as being named one of the most competent researchers, but money would be forthcoming too. This is from a former editor of Raparts. Since they sold the files, I wonder what this means now. Also interesting is the fact the one really seemingly nice guy still on Ramparts, Peter Collier, has not answered my letter either in which I asked why the book is being rewritten by someone else - and also, where does ~~xxxx~~ this leave me. He is the one who said it was only fair for Hinckle to let me do a few chapters of the book, but Hinckle said no - whole thing ~~xxxxxx~~ wierd. The AP article came out about 2 months ago and my friend here doesn't even have a copy. I think the NY office might be able to help you more. As for Kaplan's speaking at this point, I wonder if it's advance publicity for the book - or, since it was about the time the AP article came out, the results of another AP reporter interviewing him in New Mexico which he did. He has no reason to be hiding from anything legally involved. He doesn't seem to be hiding from syndicates, either - I really wish to hell I never met him, but since I have, and have suffered the thing out this long I might as well try to cash in on it. Interesting too, Reader's Digest is not pushing me for the article, but I do think this is for financial reasons. They've just moved to cheaper quarters, got rid of the high-priced local editor and are in a bad financial situation all over. Nevertheless I will do the article, and send you some copies - although I'd like anyone you show it to to know this is RD style, not at all a possible book I can do for a possible movie. And really, if it goes, you're my agent and will collect whatever percentage [redacted] owing. I still think a first person humorous essay at this point would be the thing.

I haven' t been in touch with Velasquez since he informed me of events, even though he asked me to. I think I'll feel like I've been healthfully purged when it's all over - which probably won't be until the end of this year - and get some of the writing done that bothers me in my sleep like Fishbine's Fmax Folly. Now - all I need is an advance and would I be a happy, well-directed gal!

Thought of you immediately upon readying of EJH's long-delayed demise. The eulogies are nauseating. Do you think there will be any serious changes in the burea?

How's Jerry? Is he still with the news service and going to school? What has happened to his article? The rewrite seemed quite good to me, although I suggested an analytical ending as to why the NY Times follows the policy he goes in to - or at least leaving the reader to directly do some contemplating. He answered saying it would be another kind of an article - I don't remember exactly as I haven't the letter with me (I escape from the house and work in a small office used by the Mexican Columnist Club) - nevertheless, I do remember his answer seemed to justify his position. I intend to end my Kaplan article with a nice note of sarcasm like interesting this can happen here and why is it alright?

Just returned from a week's trip from El Paso and down, doing business stories for the local mag I earn my instant bread from. Market panorama on the border, cheese industry in Chihuahua, movie industry in Durango - like that. Interesting trip without having any excitement, took along Susy my little daughter and we sang Fiddler on the Roof much to the consternation of eagle-nosed Mexicans who don't look too unlike Tevya! Hours and hours of buses, taco stops and cactus. I missed Cortes! - but then he took another route, and much too long ago.

Thank you again for your guidance, it's what it is, and your efforts in my behalf.

Best to Lil,

Paul